

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 520

By Kyle

A RESOLUTION to honor the life and memory of Dr. Margaret A. Newman for her laudable achievements in nursing theory.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should honor the memory of those esteemed individuals who dedicated their professional careers and personal excellence to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Margaret A. Newman was one such noteworthy person, who distinguished herself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity throughout her illustrious career in health care; and

WHEREAS, a world-renowned leader in nursing theory, Dr. Newman was born on October 10, 1933, in Memphis; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Margaret A. Newman earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Home Economics and English from Baylor University in Waco, Texas, in 1954; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Baylor University, Dr. Newman returned to Memphis to care for her mother, who had amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (Lou Gehrig's Disease); and

WHEREAS, upon learning from her mother that one can be healthy even in the face of disease, Dr. Newman felt called to the nursing profession and enrolled at the University of Tennessee, Memphis College of Nursing, where she obtained a bachelor's degree in nursing in 1962; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Margaret A. Newman continued her education in graduate nursing studies at the University of California at San Francisco, graduating with a master's degree in medical-surgical nursing in 1964; and

WHEREAS, soon thereafter, the Medical Director of the Clinical Research Center at the University of Tennessee Affiliated Bowld Hospital recruited Dr. Newman back to Memphis to serve as an associate professor as well as the Clinical Research Center Director of Nursing; and

WHEREAS, knowing the importance of continual learning, Dr. Newman gave each nurse one day a week in the library for scholarly development to enrich their knowledge base of nursing; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Margaret A. Newman became increasingly convinced that nurses who are fully present with patients while doing the tasks of nursing can comprehend, in a holistic sense, what patients need to achieve a greater sense of health; and

WHEREAS, in 1971, she received a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Nursing from New York University and subsequently became a member of the faculty; and

WHEREAS, in 1977, Dr. Newman assumed the position of Professor-in-Charge of Graduate Program and Research in the Department of Nursing at Penn State University, where she organized an international Nursing Theory Think Tank; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Margaret A. Newman introduced her theory of Health as Expanding Consciousness (HEC) in 1978 at a Nursing Theory Conference in New York; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Newman's HEC Theory of Nursing holds that every person in every situation, regardless of how disordered and hopeless it may seem, is part of the universal process of expanding consciousness, a process of becoming more of oneself, finding greater meaning in life, and reaching new dimensions of connectedness with other people and the world; and

WHEREAS, in 1979, she published the earliest primer on developing nursing theory, *Theory Development in Nursing*; and

WHEREAS, in 1984, Dr. Newman assumed a role as Nurse Theorist and Professor at the University of Minnesota, where she furthered the development and testing of her theory, working closely with doctoral students; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Margaret A. Newman later served as a civilian consultant to the U.S. Surgeon General for Nursing Research before taking her well-deserved retirement from teaching in 1999; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Newman remained actively engaged in her profession for the next seventeen years and advanced nursing theory, education, research, and practice through presentations and publications, including her books, *Health as Expanding Consciousness* (1986 and 1994), *A Developing Discipline: Selected Works of Margaret Newman* (1995), and *Transforming Presence: The Difference that Nursing Makes* (2008); and

WHEREAS, no stranger to accolades, Dr. Margaret A. Newman was honored as a Living Legend by the American Academy of Nursing; was named a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing; was designated an Outstanding Alumna by the University of Tennessee and New York University; received the Distinguished Scholar in Nursing Award from New York University, the Founder's Award for Excellence in Nursing Research from Sigma Theta Tau International, the Nurse Scholar Award from Saint Xavier University School of Nursing, the American Journal of Nursing Award by the American Nurses Foundation, and the E. Louise Grant Award for Nursing Excellence from the University of Minnesota; was named Distinguished Faculty, Seventh International Conference on Human Functioning, in Wichita, Kansas; and was inducted into the Hall of Fame at the University of Mississippi School of Nursing in Jackson, Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of her substantial contributions to the field of nursing, the University of Tennessee College of Nursing established the Dr. Margaret A. Newman Center for

Nursing Theory at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis, which is scheduled to launch on May 30, 2023; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory and celebrate the life, service, leadership, scholarship, and pursuit of excellence of Dr. Margaret A. Newman, whose remarkable achievements in nursing theory have shaped the field of nursing as it is practiced throughout the world today.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.